

The China Mail

Established February, 1845.

VOL. XXIII. No. 7359.

號六十月三年七十八百八十一英

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1887.

日二月二年亥丁

PRICE, \$2 PER MONTH.

AGENTS FOR THE CHINA MAIL.

LONDON.—F. AZAR, 11 & 12, Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, E. C. George Street & Co., 30, Cornhill. Gordon & Gouth, Ludgate Circus, E.C. Bates Hendy & Co., 37, Wallbrook, E.C. SAMUEL DIAZON & Co., 190 & 194, Leadenhall Street, E.C. W. M. WILLS, 161, Cannon Street, E.C.

PARIS.—ANNE BOUCHE.—AMERIQUE PRINCE & Co., 36, Rue Lafayette, Paris.

CEYLON.—W. M. SMITH & CO.

SINGAPORE, STRAITS, &c.—SAVAGE & CO., Square, Singapore. C. HENRIZEN & CO., Manila.

CHINA.—MACAO, F. A. DE CRUZ, Serrato, Quelch & Co., Amoy, N. Moale, Foochow, Hengho & Co., Shanghai, LANE, CRAWFORD & Co., and KELLY & WALSH, Yokohama, LANE, CRAWFORD & Co., and KELLY & CO.

Banks.

NOTICE.

RULES OF THE HONGKONG SAVINGS' BANK.

1.—The business of the above Bank will be conducted by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, on their premises in Hongkong. Business hours on week-days, 10 to 3; Saturdays, 10 to 1.

2.—Sums less than \$1, or more than \$2,500 at one time, will not be received. No deposit or deposit more than \$2,500 in any one year.

3.—Depositors in the Savings' Bank having \$100 or more at their credit may at their option transfer the same to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation on fixed deposit for 12 months at 5 per cent. per annum interest.

4.—Interest at the rate of 3% per cent. per annum will be allowed to depositors on their daily balances.

5.—Each Depositor will be supplied gratis with a Pass-Book which must be presented with each payment or withdrawal. Depositors must not make any entries themselves in their Pass-Books but should send them to be written up at least twice a year, about the beginning of January and beginning of July.

6.—Correspondence as to the business of the Bank if marked On Hongkong Savings' Bank Business is forwarded free by the various British Post Offices in Hongkong and China.

7.—Withdrawals may be made on demand, but the personal attendance of the depositor or his duly appointed agent, and the production of his Pass-Book are necessary.

For the HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,

JOHN WALTER,
Acting Chief Manager.
Hongkong, July 1, 1887.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL.....\$7,500,000
RESERVE FUND.....\$4,500,000
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PRO-
PRIETORS.....\$7,500,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS
Chairman—M. GROTE, Esq.
Deputy Chairman—C. D. BOTTOMLEY, Esq.
Hon. J. BELL IRVING, E. H. M. HUNTINGTON, W. H. F. DARBY, Esq., TON, Esq.
H. L. DALMMPLE, Hon. A. P. McEVERN, Esq.
H. HOPKINS, Esq.

CHIEF MANAGER
Hongkong, THOMAS JACKSON, Ven.
Acting Chief Manager—JOHN WALTER, Esq.
MANAGER
Shanghai, EWEN CAMERON, Esq.
LONDON BANKERS, London and County Bank.

HONGKONG.
INTEREST ALLOWED
ON Current Deposit Account at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the daily balance.

On Fixed Deposits—
For 3 months, 3 per cent. per annum.
" 6 " 4 per cent.
" 12 " 5 per cent. "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.
Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on London, and the chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

JOHN WALTER,
Acting Chief Manager.
Hongkong, February 26, 1887.

Notices of Firms.

HONGKONG HOTEL.

NOTICE.

M. C. M. ROBERTS, formerly with Messrs. ALEXANDER GOLDEN & CO., London, has been appointed HOTEL MANAGER.

Mrs. ROBERTS has been appointed MATRON.

By Order,
L. HAUSCHILD,
Secretary,
HONGKONG HOTEL, LTD.
Hongkong, March 1, 1887.

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

DURING my Absence Mr. A. S. GADGET has been appointed Acting SECRETARY.

By Order,
W. H. RAY,
Secretary,
Hongkong, February 19, 1887.

NOTICE.

THE Interests and Responsibility of the late Mr. GEORG THEODOR SIEMSEN in our Firm ceased on the 24th November, 1886, and that of Mr. PAUL GERHARD HUBBE on the 31st December, 1886.

Mr. JACOB RUFF has been authorized to sign our Firm for Procurator from this date.

SIEMSEN & CO.
China Sugar Refining Company,
Limited.

Hongkong and China,
14th February, 1887.

Entertainment.

THEATRE ROYAL,
CITY HALL.

Under the Patronage of Captain DUNLOP and Officers of H.R.M.'s S. Leader.

THE LEO MINSTREL TROUPE
OF
H. M. S. LEADER
will give

A PERFORMANCE
in the above Hall on
SATURDAY EVENING,
the 19th Instant.

PRICES OF ADMISSION:

Dress Circle and Front Seats, \$1.00.
Stalls—Centre Seats, \$0.50.
Stalls—Back Seats, \$0.20.

Doors open at 8.30. Commence at 9 p.m.

Tickets can be had at Messrs. KELLY & WALSH, LIMITED, where Seats may be secured.

Mr. C. LETHBRIDGE, R.N.,
Manager.

Lieut. R. BLOMFIELD, R.N.,
Hon. Sec. & Treasurer.

Hongkong, March 15, 1887.

475

Intimations.

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SIEMSEN & CO.
China Sugar Refining Company,
Limited.

Hongkong and China,
14th February, 1887.

Business Notices.

JANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

CIGARS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.'S SPECIAL BRAND 'THE MANILAS'
LA PERLA DEL ORIENTE—REINA VICTORIA, BREVAS, LONGUES, PRINCESAS
DAMAS, PERLAS, ORTADO DE LA REINA, REGALIA CHICA, REGALIA
ORIENTE, NUEVO HABANO EXTRA.

LA INSULAR—No. 2 HABANOS in 250 BOXES, \$4.00 per Box—
(All in perfect condition).

TOBACCO.

F. & J. SMITH'S, Glasgow.—BRIGHT CUT NAVY, FLAKED GOLDEN LEAF HONEY
DEW, SUN CURED MILD MIXTURE, GLASGOW MIXTURE, GOLDEN BIRDS
EYE, SUN CUT VIRGINIA.

GOPES—GOLDEN CLOUD, SMOKING MIXTURE, GOLDEN BIRDS-EYE.

PIACES—GOLD LEAF PLUG TOBACCO.

CIGARETTES.

MALTA CIGARETTES—KAISAR-I-HIND, STAR OF INDIA.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO. call special attention to their Splendid Assortment of
PIPES, CIGAR-HOLDERS and SMOKER'S SUNDRIES.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Hongkong, March 1, 1887.

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Intimations.

PERSEVERANCE LODGE OF
HONGKONG,
No. 1166.

A Regular MEETING of the above
LODGE will be held in the FREE-
MASON HALL, Zealand Street, THIS SEVEN-
ING, the 16th Instant, at 8.30 to 10 p.m.
Visiting Brethren are cordially invited.

Hongkong, March 16, 1887.

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HONGKONG AND WHAMFOA DOCK
COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

CONTRIBUTING SHAREHOLDERS
are requested to send in a STATEMENT
of BUSINESS contributed during the Half-
Year ended 31st December, 1886, on or
before the 31st Instant, on which date
the Accounts will be Closed.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

DAVID GILLIES,
Secretary.

Hongkong, March 15, 1887.

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PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instruc-
tions to Sell by Public Auction, on
THURSDAY,

the 17th of March, 1887, at 11 a.m., on
Board,

THE GERMAN BARQUE
ANTON GÜNTHER,
of 441 TONS REGISTERED, Sheathed with
YELLOW METAL in April, 1885, with all her TACKLE and APPAREL, as
she lies in this Harbour.

TERMS of SALE.—One-third of the Pur-
chase Money to be paid after fall of ham-
mer, the remainder upon transfer; the
Vessel to be purchased risk immediately
after being knocked down.

A STE

Intimations.

DENTISTRY.

FIRST CLASS WORKMANSHIP.
MODERATE FEES.

MR. WONG TAI-FONG.

*Surgeon Dentist,
Formerly Attached Apprentice and later
Tutor to Dr. Rogers,*
*At the urgent request of his European
and American patients and friends,
has TAKEN THE OFFICE formerly occupied by
Dr. Rogers,*

*No. 2, DUDDELL STREET.**CONSULTATION FREE.*

Discount to missionaries and families.
Sole Address
2, DUDDELL STREET,
(Next to the New Oriental Bank.)
Hongkong, January 12, 1885.

To-day's Advertisements.

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

FOR LONDON VIA SUEZ CANAL.

The Co.'s Steamship

Tidaron, Capt. J. F. Winkens, will be

despatched as above TO-

MORROW, the 17th instant, at Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents.

Hongkong, March 10, 1887.

D. E. Frede, San Francho, February 12, and Yokohama March 9, Mails and General.

—P. M. S. S. Co.

Titan, British steamer, 1,654, R. J. Brown, Liverpool January 20, and Singapore March 10, General—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

Sob, British steamer, 1,725 Scotland, Mr. G. Marshall, 10, General—GUNN, LIVINSON & CO.

Chelmsford, British 3-m. schooner, 31, F. C. Collins, Hulls March 4, Sapman Wood.

—ED. SCHILLER & CO.

Chi Yuen, Chinese steamer, 1,211, W. H. Lui, Singapore March 8, General—C. M. N. Co.

Rio Lima, Portuguese gunboat, 530, Capt. Raphael d'Andrade, Goa, via Mormugao, Bombay, Colombo, Sourabaya and Manila, March 12.

Wellington, German steamer, 728, Schlueter, Saigon March 11, Ricci and Paddy Wieland.

H. Prinzessin, German barque, 553, A. Schuhmann, Bayring February 23, Timber.

—MERCERS & CO.

Tidom, British steamer, 1,557, M. H. Jackson, Shanghai via Amoy, March 12, General—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

Hongkong, March 10, 1887.

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

FOR SHANGHAI VIA AMOV.

(Taking Cargo & Passengers at through rates for NINGPO, CHEFOO, NEW CHWANG, TIENTSIN, TIENTWU and Ports on the YANGTZE.)

The Co.'s Steamship

Tidom, Captain Brown, will be

despatched as above TO-

FRIDAY, the 13th instant, at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,
Agents.

Hongkong, March 10, 1887.

March 16—

Wolf, German gunboat, for Canton.

Holling, for Swatow.

Proprietary, for Saigon.

Diamond, for Amoy and Manilla.

Southern Chief, for Haiphong.

Quarto, for Whampoa.

C. E. H. K.,

Anton, for Huloo and Pakhoi.

ADEN, SUZIE, PORT SAID,

MESSINA, NAPLES, (LEGHORN),

AND GENOA.

Also to MARSELLAS, all MEDITERRANEAN, AFRICAN, LEVANTINE and SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS, up to CALLOO, Taking Cargo at through rates to MADRAS, PERSIAN GULF and BAGDAD.

The Go.'s Steamship

Bermuda, Capt. Pizzarello, will be

despatched as above on

SATURDAY, the 19th inst., at noon.

The Steamer has splendid Accommodation for Passengers and carries a Doctor and Stewardess.

For further Particulars regarding Freight and Passage, apply to

CARLOWITZ & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, March 10, 1887.

DEPARTURES.

ARRIVED.

Per City of Sydney, from San Francisco, Mrs. D. E. Frede, Mr. Thos. Baxter, and 327 Chinese.

Per Titan, from Liverpool, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Donovan, Miss Robson, Mr. Whittle, Miss A. Whittle, Miss C. Whittle, Mr. Sharples, Mr. and Mrs. Gutcher, and 130 Chinese, from Singapore.

Per Siva, from Kobo, Mrs. Truscott.

Per C. Y., from Singapore, 673 Chinese.

For further Particulars regarding Freight and Passage, apply to

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO., Managers.

Hongkong, March 10, 1887.

DEPARTURE.

ARRIVED.

Per G. H. D., from SWATOW, 60 Chinese.

Per Proprietary, for Saigon, 12 Chinese.

Per Diamond, for Amoy, &c., 12 Chinese.

Per Swan, for Haiphong, 1 European, and 15 Chinese.

Per Teviot, for Saigon, 12 Chinese.

Per Glenallock, for Shanghai, 2 Europeans.

Hongkong, March 10, 1887.

NOT Responsible for Debts.

Neither the Captain, the Agents, nor

Owners will be Responsible for

any Debt contracted by the Officers, or

Crew of the following Vessel, during

their stay in Hongkong Harbour:

AMPHITHEA, The Co.'s Steamship

Capt. Anderson, —P. O. S. N. Co.

ANNIE, German barque, Captain J. F. Wieland, —Wieland & Co.

DANIEL J. TENNY, American ship, Capt. Geo. S. Wilson—Tunstall Co.

FAUCH BAUACH, Germ. schooner, Capt. Schultz—Chinese.

Hongkong, March 10, 1887.

POST OFFICE NOTICES.

MAILS will close:-

FOR SHANGHAI—

Per Glenallock, at 11.30 a.m., on Thursday, the 17th inst., instead of as previously notified.

FOR HAIPHONG—

Per Salie, at 5 p.m., on Thursday, the 17th inst., instead of as previously notified.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY & FOCHOW—

Per Theta, at 5 p.m., on Thursday, the 17th inst., instead of as previously notified.

FOR AMOV & SHANGHAI—

Per Fiducia, at 2.30 p.m., on Thursday, the 17th inst.

Per Dorcas, at 3.30 p.m., on Friday, the 18th inst.

ARRIVALS.

March 15, 1887—

Quartz, German steamer, 733, T. T. Kock, Woosung March 12, Rice.—Simsen & Co.

James Watt, British steamer, 1,024, A. Petri's, Saigon March 11, Rice.—Russell & Co.

March 16—

City of Sydney, American steamer, 3,016,

SHARE LIST.—QUOTATIONS.

MARCH 16, 1887.

Stocks.

Nos. of Shares

Value

Paid-up.

POSITION PER LAST REPORT.

Reserve.

Balance, f. w.w.

Last Divid.

Closing Quotations, G. & G.

100/- for 1 year

147 1/2 prem., cash 31 Mar. '87

100/- for 1 year

147 1/2 per share

114 for 1 yr.

114 per share</

& Co.'s letter was in the effect that two junks bound from Kowkong to this port had been stopped at Kap-siu-men station, and an extra tax of \$2 per picul demanded on some pinjums. The owners refused to pay and the junks were stopped until the evening, when they were allowed to proceed after giving a bond.

Mr. Sharp said it seemed a long while to wait for an answer. The Colonial Government forwarded the reply to H. B. M.'s Minister.

The Chairman.—No reply has been received. I can only say, Mr. Sharp, that I am much dissatisfied—I might also say disappointed—because I have been unable to remove from the reputation that all our documents must go through the local Government. Who was the originator of this system? I am unable to say, but I think it is a slur upon this Chamber. We had for a great many years communicated direct with the high authorities, and I know from correspondence that I have in my possession that the Chambers of Commerce at home communicate direct with the Ministers at the head of the different departments. Who was the originator of this system? I am unable to say, but I think it is a slur upon this Chamber. I have the honor to inform you that the subject was carefully considered by the Foreign Office, and the Foreign Office said to-day, and I am inclined to submit the following suggestion: for the consideration of His Excellency, the Officer Administering the Government.

In the opinion of the Committee, it is very undesirable that British representatives should act as Commercial Agents, or render assistance in furtherance of any commercial enterprise beyond that which their instructions require of them; but they should be directed to use all justifiable means to aid the trader in securing all rights and privileges to which he is entitled by treaty.

The Committee consider that Consuls should be authorized to give especial and particular attention to complaints with regard to obstructions to trade by Chinese officials, whether by Extra-tak or otherwise, say—in the event of a new and unauthorized levy being made suddenly on trade, as is sometimes the case—troublous regulations instituted at Barbers in the interior or affecting the trade by River steamers and against which no time should be lost by the Consul in protesting and suggesting a remedy for the evil.

The Chairman said he would very gladly do so.

After some further conversation of a desultory character, Mr. Sharp proposed the following resolution:—That the Committee of the Chamber be requested to communicate with the local Government, and, if necessary, other officers, to obtain information likely to be useful to British manufacturers, should be requested to advise their Consul of the fact, with a view to inclusion in his next Consular Report.

Whenever information is obtained showing that the Consul of another Power is using his influence to secure any contract for his countrymen, the British Consul should be authorized to extend assistance in behalf of any British subject competing for such contract, but the Committee of the Chamber do not think it desirable that Consular Officers should be detailed for service with, or Consular influence be used on behalf of, any individual firm, nor indeed that it should be used at all, except in order to secure, should it be possible, that British merchants generally have fairly in the market.

Hon. A. P. MacEwan, Vice-chairman, for the motion.

Mr. Mackintosh seconded.

The Chairman asked Mr. Sharp to allow the resolution to stand over until some formal business was gone through.

The Chairman then announced that the result of the ballot was that the following gentlemen had been elected as Committee: Hon. F. Ryrie, Hon. A. P. MacEwan, Hon. Bell-Irving, Messrs. Hoppus, Huntington, Darby, Grote, and Macintosh.

Hon. Mr. Bell-Irving proposed that the Hon. F. Ryrie be elected chairman and the Hon. A. P. MacEwan, vice-chairman, for the year.

Mr. Davis seconded. The proposal was carried unanimously.

The Chairman.—Gentlemen, as you are aware, Mr. Baily, who was our Secretary, has sent in his resignation, and I have now much pleasure in proposing that we elect Mr. Jeffries. (Applause.)

Mr. Mackintosh seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Sharp then renewed his motion, adding that it had been suggested to him that a clause should be added saying the Committee to enquire of the Government upon what grounds the Chamber had abstained from direct communication with H. B. M.'s Minister upon matters affecting the trade and interests of the Colony, a privilege which they have enjoyed for very many years.

Mr. Mackintosh again seconded.

The Chairman said he had felt very strongly on this matter right through, and had remonstrated with the late Governor on the subject. He (the Chairman) said a slur had been cast upon a body well known throughout the world.

The motion was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Hon. A. P. MacEwan drew attention to the following paragraphs in a letter from Mr. N. R. O'Conor, H. B. M.'s Consul d'Affaires, dated Peking, February 25, 1886, and printed in the appendices to the Report:—

"In conformity with instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in consultation with the Colonial Office, I take this opportunity of requesting that you will be good enough, in future, to address any communications to Her Majesty's Representative in Peking, respecting the commercial interests of Hongkong, through the regular channel of the Government of the Colony."

"At the same time I beg to say that I assure it will always be agreeable to Her Majesty's Representative to receive through this channel any representations which the Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, may see fit to make, and that these representations will at all times receive every consideration and attention. It therefore appears that the representations were received from the Foreign Office."

Mr. Jeffries. The motion was confirmed by Sir John Watson, at an interview when he came through here. I don't think it is of any use asking any more about it.

Mr. Mackintosh. It would show, nine months after, how the new system worked.

Mr. Sharp withdrew the latter portion of the resolution, and framed another resolution, which ultimately read as follows:—

"That the Committee of the Chamber be requested to communicate with the local Government inquiring whether any answer has been received to the letter addressed by the Chamber on the 26th of July last to H. B. M.'s Minister in China in reference to the illegal exaction of the Chinese Customs Station in the Canton Sino-Pek Province, forwarded by Messrs. Neiss & Co., and that they be directed to communicate with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in reference to this subject with a view to inform him how very unsatisfactory the new instructions work which were communicated to the Chamber by Her Majesty's Consul d'Affaires at Peking in his letter of 26th February 1886."

The Chairman.—I think we have very good ground for objecting. The Colonial Government cannot get on without assistance, and why should their time be directed to this thing when we ourselves have a secretary, an able secretary; it is merely doing what they don't know anything about.

Mr. Sharp said when he had an interview with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in reference to this subject he wished to give a genuine instance of the evils of the double-tax.

Mr. Mackintosh said the Chamber were bound to look into the matter, and Mr. Grote said there should at least have been an acknowledgment from Peking.

The resolution, in its amended form, was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

There being no further remarks, the meeting was declared dissolved.

BRITISH CONSULS AS COMMERCIAL AGENTS.

The following letter, which has not yet been published, appears in the appendices to the Chamber of Commerce Report, published elsewhere:—

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, Nov. 4, 1886.

Sir.—In reply to your letter No. 1522 of the 20th September transmitting to this Chamber copy of a Circular letter of the 9th July, 1886, from the Secretary of the Colonies, together with a Circular Letter of the 4th March, 1886, from the Foreign Office, on the question of the promotion and extension of British trade by Officers of Her Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Services, and requesting the opinion of this Chamber thereon, I have the honor to inform you that the subject was carefully considered by the Foreign Office.

It is the opinion of the Foreign Office that the system of protection of British trade by Officers of Her Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Services, and requiring the opinion of this Chamber thereon, I have the honor to inform you that the subject was carefully considered by the Foreign Office.

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HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The following is the yearly report of the Chamber of Commerce adopted by the members at the annual meeting, held this afternoon:—

REPORT.

The Committee beg to submit to the Members of the Chamber, the following Report of their proceedings during the period under notice:—

Absorption by China of Precious Metals.—A letter, dated 17th November 1885, was received from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce requesting information on this subject. Your Committee regret they were unable to afford as full information as they could wish on certain points mentioned in the correspondence, as no reliable statistics could be obtained.

Negotiation of the Canton River.—This very important question has not been lost sight of by your Committee. Complaints have been made to the Chamber of the useless and irritating obstructions to trade which continue to be experienced by the mercantile community, and of the very heavy losses to shippers, arising from the fact of the Chinese authorities in making full the scheme made in 1884 to leave a clear channel for navigation at the barrier in the Southern reach of the Canton River. As stated in the last report of the Chamber, the Canton Authorities were ordered to remove these obstructions in August, 1885, under instructions from Peking. In July last it was reported to the Chamber that the Vicerey had given orders to fill up the barriers with stones, and your Committee immediately telegraphed to Her Majesty's Minister at Peking, requesting that urgent representations might be made to the Tungku-Yamen against the unmerciful proceeding, and letters were addressed to the Local Government pointing out the imperative necessity of protecting British interests in the Canton waters. It will be seen from the correspondence that repeated representations were made to the Chinese Authorities at Peking, but as yet no definite instructions appear to have been given to the Viceroy of Canton, for the removal of the obstructions complained of.

Quarantine.—In January last your Committee took the liberty of addressing the Local Government on the previous correspondence on this subject, and they have allowed no fitting opportunity to pass without entering a protest against the vexatious burdon imposed on shipping by the regulations.

Partial Blockade of the Western Entrance to the Harbour.—The opinion of the Chamber was requested by the Local Government, in recommendation to the members of a committee appointed to inspect the defences works in the Colony, that a portion of the Western Entrance to the Harbour should be permanently closed by blockading Kellef's Bank.

In reply, your Committee, on the information laid before them, stated that such an obstruction would not, to any extent, interfere with the navigation of the existing channels and in substance approved the adoption of the scheme proposed, at the same time they availed themselves of the opportunity to suggest a modification of the plan for the consideration of the Government.

The French-Chinese Trade Regulations for the Amur Frontier.—In June last a letter was received from the Local Government, transmitting a translation of the Regulations for the Amur Frontier trade determined by officers in France and China, and it was believed some months ago that the building would be transferred to the War Office Authorities, and be shortly diverted from the use for which it was constructed, and considerable anxiety was felt as to the renewed necessity which would arise for providing accommodation for the sick.

Your Committee note that the Local Government, in reply to a question put by the Chamber's Representative in the Council, has given the clearest assurance that as the new building has not been transferred, it is available for the purpose intended.

Landing of Cargoes for Hongkong at Keuton.—Your Committee received a letter from a member of the Chamber with regard to the power of the Agents of steamers to land and give delivery of cargo at Keuton destined for Hongkong, and its opinion was requested on the following points: (1) whether within the limits of the Colony of Hongkong; (2) on whose account is the risk of bringing cargo from Keuton to Hongkong. On considering the views put before them, your Committee decided that British Keuton must be considered within the limits of the Colony, and they intimated that the insertion of a clause in Policies, by arrangement with underwriters, covered the risk of removal provided this was effected within seven days from date of the first discharge of the cargo.

Mr. Harry S. Parker Memorial Fund.—Early in the present year a communication was received from Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.C.B., Chairman of the Committee formed in London to secure a permanent memorial in commemoration of the eminent services of the late Sir Harry S. Parker, inviting this Chamber to co-operate with the Chambers of Commerce in China and Japan in promoting this object. Your Committee addressed letters to the various Chambers of Commerce asking for their views in connection with this project, and on receipt of their replies, it was resolved to open a subscription for the same, and the amount so far subscribed should be forwarded to Shanghai, where it was decided to erect an appropriate monument. This was accordingly done, and a remittance was forwarded to Shanghai in aid of the movement which is being carried out at that port.

The Legislative Council.—In April last the Government addressed the Chamber, asking it to nominate a Member to fill the place of the Hon. T. Jackson, Un-official Member of the Legislative Council, who had been granted twelve months' leave of absence.

Following the precedent adopted in the past year, a Special General Meeting of the Chamber was held on the 27th April, when Mr. A. P. MacEwan, the Vice-Chairman of the Chamber, was unanimously nominated in Mr. Jackson's place, and he was duly appointed a Member of the Council.

Obstructions in the Canton River.—Mr. W. E. Clarke, master of the steamer *Hornam*, called the attention of the Chamber to certain rocks at the Western entrance to the Dutch Folly Channel in the Canton River, which are considered to be a danger to shipping. He requested the Chamber to make representations to the Authorities for their removal. This case being of especial interest to the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steam-Boat Company, Limited, the matter was referred to its Board of Directors and a copy of Mr. Clarke's letter was submitted for their favourable consideration.

Hongkong Defences.—It will be in the recollection of the members of the Chamber that, when the Legislative Council voted the sum of £15,625 as provision for the armament of the Forts of the Colony in 1885, the sum of £10,000, which was included in that sum, was set aside for the construction of a Lighthouse on the Gap Rock, in order that the Southern approach to this port may be rendered easy, the Government replying that no funds were available to meet the cost of such a work, also that diplomatic difficulties stood in the way of the scheme as the proposed site was not within the jurisdiction of the English Government.

The convenience and delay to which ships are exposed of being detained within a few miles from Hongkong in consequence of the absence of such a light were again brought to the attention of the Local Government, and when Sir Robert Hart, Inspector-General of the Chinese Marine Customs, visited this Colony in June last, he renewed the offer on behalf of the Chinese Customs, not only to build but to maintain a Light, provided the Local Government would pay for its construction. Consequently your Committee submitted a resolution, after due consideration, that the grant of this large sum was made on the express understanding that the guns to be supplied for all the defensive works were to be of the best and latest pattern of breech-loading ordnance, capable of resisting the attacks of the heaviest modern iron-clads. In June last articles appeared in the local newspapers calling attention to the fact that muzzle-loading guns had arrived, apparently as substitutes for the breech-loading guns bargained for by the Council, and your Committee last night

in addressing the Government on the subject. In reply, the Government stated that the conditions of the armament had been, to a certain extent, misunderstood and that it was never intended to arm the forts with breech-loading ordnance only; that the Sea batteries would be provided with the latest pattern of breech-loading guns, but the original armament proposed would probably be augmented in number and increase of power, also that arrangements had been made by the Imperial Government to ship a portion of the breech-loading guns and their mountings.

Although five months have elapsed since the last communication received from the Government, your Committee are not aware that any of the promised breech-loading ordnance has arrived, and they can but express their regret that the correspondence referred to has proved so unsatisfactory.

The Postal Contract.—A Despatch from the Asian Colonial Secretary, with one paper addressed to the Government, regarding the renewal of the P. & O. Mail Contract which terminates on the 31st January, 1888, was forwarded to the Chamber with the request that Government might be favoured with their opinion thereon, and any suggestions which the Chamber might desire to offer. It will be seen by reference to the appendix that three tenders were submitted to the Imperial Government for the conveyance of the China mails, and after due consideration your Committee recommended the acceptance of the tender from Mr. & Co., who agreed to make no change in the postal service under the control of the Chinese Maritime Customs.

Registration of Imports and Exports.—The action thus far taken by your Committee in relation to the advisability of adopting measures to collect statistics of the Import and Export trade of this port, is sufficiently explained in the subjoined correspondence, which has been exchanged with the Government: (1) to stipulate that the rate of speed at which the mail steamers shall run between Suez and Shanghai should not be less than 12 knots an hour; (2) that as the Imperial Government will send a large force to the proposed site of the new port, the Chinese would grant a pro rata reduction on its contribution; (3) that the hour of noon, for the departure of the mail, would prove the most convenient to the mercantile community. With regard to the stay in this harbour of the mail packets, your Committee saw no reason to suggest any alteration in the existing arrangement of the Chinese Government.

The matter is at present under the consideration of a Sub Committee appointed for the purpose.

Promotion and Extension of British Trade by Officers of Her Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Services.—Your Committee received, through the Local Government, in September last, a Circular letter from the Foreign Office on the question of the promotion and extension of British Trade by officers of Her Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Services, and asking for an expression of the Chamber's opinion thereon.

Your Committee, in reply, while recording their opinion that it is undesirable that British Representatives should be asked to act as Commercial Agents or required to specifically further the interests of any firm, thought that they should aid the Merchant or Trader to secure all the rights accorded by treaty; to give prompt attention to all complaints of obstructions to trade by illegal means of any kind; to communicate any information at their command, likely to be of advantage to British commerce, to the nearest Chinese Consul, and to the Agent, and, in the event of the Consul of another power using his official influence on behalf of his countrymen endeavouring to secure a contract, to extend his assistance in like manner to any British subject competing for the same contract, but that such assistance should only be rendered when necessary to ensure to British Traders fair play in the pursuit of trade.

Commercial Measures.—Your Committee received a Circular letter from the London Chamber of Commerce, which expressed the hearty sympathy with the arrangement called attention to the larger scheme of the proposed Imperial Institute, which appears likely to embrace the object arrived at by these projected museums.

Miscellanea.—One Arbitration case was submitted for the decision of the Committee, under the rules of the Chamber, framed for that purpose.

The last Report reference was made to the protest, entered by the Chamber, against an enforcement by the Chinese Maritime Customs of certain regulations for the movement of Tug-boats, sailing between Hongkong and Canton. The representations submitted by your Committee were laid before Her Majesty's Admiralty at Peking, who notified the Tungku-Yamen of its inability to accede to their proposals.

The case of the steamship *Galeston*, which vessel it will be remembered was ordered away from the port of Honchow by a French man-of-war, was represented to the Imperial Government as stated in the last report, and your Committee have since learned that Her Majesty's Minister of Foreign Affairs, in his despatch to the French Government respecting the opening of the port of Amak to foreign trade.

Despatches were received from the Local Government announcing that the following ports had been opened by the French Government to foreign commerce: Cua Day, Nam Phu, Tonkin; Fa-Po and Vinh, in Annam. Also that offices for Postal and Telegraphic service had been opened at Quanri, Chochyun, Quanhan, Myho in Annam; Baoh, Thatk in Tonkin, and an office for official and private telegraphic service at Donghai.

The Chinese Government, in its despatch, intimated that the insertion of a clause in Policies, by arrangement with underwriters, covered the risk of removal provided this was effected within seven days from date of the first discharge of the cargo.

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in addressing the Government on the subject. The representation, with regard to the action of the Chinese officials, was considered by your Committee of sufficient gravity to be promptly reported to the Local Government, and it will be seen, from the Chamber's letter, that it has been submitted to Her Majesty's Minister at Peking.

Employment of Foreigners on Board of British Vessels.—On this subject the Local Government addressed your Committee, with the object of obtaining certain information required by the Board of Trade. After the statement submitted had received general attention, your Committee replied that too much importance ought not to be given to the views advanced by a small section of officers and engineers upon this matter; and that as regards the granting of Colonial certificates to other than British subjects, a reversal of this custom would be useless in accomplishing the object aimed at.

The Proposed Change in the Postal Arrangements.—The Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce addressed a communication to the Chamber, enclosing a letter from the Postal Commissioner appointed by Sir Robert Hart, also a report of the proceedings of a general meeting of the foreign residents at Shanghai called to consider the proposed change in the postal arrangements for the conveyance of the China mails, and after due consideration your Committee recommended the acceptance of the proposal of the Chinese Government.

Return Passage Tickets.—The U.S. Mail Steamship Company, via Yokohama, and San Francisco, to the United States, and to Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South America, and South Africa, will be despatched for San Francisco, via Yokohama, on SATURDAY, the 20th instant, at 3 p.m. by the Proprietor and Freight for Japan, the United States, and Europe.

Through Bills of Lading issued for trans-

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transatlantic lines of Steamers.

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